

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-25 (canceled).

26. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a custom orthodontic appliance for treatment of a patient, the method comprising:

maintaining a database, accessible by a computer, and containing data related to each of a plurality of orthodontic practitioners;

storing in the database, information identifying each of the practitioners of the plurality and information relating to treatment plan options including default preferences as to ~~one or both~~ of orthodontic prescriptions and ~~orthodontic appliance hardware~~ associated with each of the respective practitioners;

receiving information from an orthodontic practitioner of the plurality for providing a custom orthodontic appliance for a patient;

in response to the information from the orthodontic practitioner, determining parameters for the configuration of a custom orthodontic appliance for the patient based at least in part on the stored treatment plan options associated with the orthodontic practitioner; and

providing to the orthodontic practitioner an orthodontic appliance design for the patient having a configuration that includes the determined parameters.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 further comprising:

receiving information from the orthodontic practitioner of a treatment plan option for treatment of the patient; and

determining at least one of the parameters based at least in part on the information of the treatment plan option received from the orthodontic practitioner.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26 further comprising:

receiving information from the orthodontic practitioner of a treatment plan option for treatment of the patient; and

determining parameters addressed by the information of the treatment plan option received from the orthodontic practitioner in accordance with that information and determining parameters not so addressed in accordance with information stored in the database.

Claims 29-44 (canceled).

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 further comprising:

providing to the orthodontic practitioner the orthodontic appliance manufactured in accordance with the orthodontic appliance design.

46. (currently amended) A method of providing a custom orthodontic appliance for treatment of a patient, the method comprising:

in response to information from an orthodontic practitioner, providing an orthodontic appliance for an individual patient having a configuration that includes appliance parameters based at least in part on predetermined treatment plan options including default preferences as to ~~one or both of~~ orthodontic prescriptions and orthodontic appliance hardware associated with the practitioner that have been retrieved from a previously created and maintained database containing data associating a plurality of orthodontic practitioners with treatment plan options including preferred appliance hardware ~~respectively preferred~~ by each orthodontic practitioner.

47. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a custom orthodontic appliance to an orthodontic practitioner for treatment of an individual patient, the method comprising:

in response to a request from an orthodontic practitioner to provide a custom orthodontic appliance for orthodontic treatment of an individual patient, providing to the orthodontic practitioner a custom orthodontic appliance for orthodontic treatment of the individual patient designed in part based on patient-specific information associated with the request and in part based on default information of treatment preferences including default preferences as to ~~one or both of~~ orthodontic prescriptions and ~~orthodontic appliance hardware~~ associated with the requesting orthodontic practitioner and retrieved from a database containing previously stored default information data associating each of a plurality of orthodontic practitioners with treatment preferences to be applied unless otherwise instructed by a requesting orthodontic practitioner.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47 further comprising:

creating a database collecting, for storage purposes, including the default information of treatment preferences from each of the plurality of orthodontic practitioners.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48 further comprising:

designing and manufacturing the custom orthodontic appliance for the individual patient based on the patient-specific information and the default information.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48 further comprising:

designing the custom orthodontic appliance based in part on patient information relating to the individual patient that had been previously stored in a patient-information database containing patient information relating to a plurality of individual patients.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein:

the patient information relating to the plurality of individual patients includes information relating to either patient anatomy, patient medical history, a patient treatment plan, an ultimate patient treatment goal, or a combination thereof.